



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153**



Press Release

For Release Immediately

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U.S. Department of the Interior Acquires Land in Charles County, Maryland

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management – Eastern States, acquired about 550 acres on Douglas Point, in Charles County Maryland on December 21. These acres will be managed cooperatively with the State of Maryland which is acquiring about 720 adjacent acres. The property is located north of and adjacent to Purse State Park along the shores of the Potomac River. The total acquisition adds 1,270 acres of some of the most highly desirable open space near the expanding Washington D.C. metropolitan area to existing parks and recreation areas.

The Douglas Point property is the first step in a conservation strategy partnering the BLM - Eastern States, the State of Maryland, Charles County, and the Conservation Fund. The partners are committed to preserving this area, which contains some of the most ecologically pristine and culturally significant areas remaining in Maryland. The larger Douglas Point peninsula contains 10 miles of shoreline along the Potomac River, Mattawoman Creek, and the historic Port Tobacco River as well as 3,500 acres of forests and wetlands.

“Our land use planning is designed to work with the public to keep this area in harmony with surrounding land-use and community interests,” said Gayle Gordon, BLM – Eastern States State Director. “This action represents BLM’s first Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisition east of the Mississippi River,” Gordon added.

The BLM, an agency in the Department of Interior, manages 264 million surface acres of public land located primarily in the 12 Western states, including Alaska. The agency manages an additional 300 million acres of below ground, mineral estate located throughout the country. Originally, the public lands were valued principally for the commodities extracted from them.

Today, the public also prizes them for their recreational opportunities and their natural, historical, and cultural resources. The BLM -

Eastern State Office, located in Springfield, Virginia, has responsibility for about 20,000 acres of surface land throughout the 31 states east of and adjacent to the Mississippi River. It also manages nearly 39 million acres of Federal minerals, maintains more than 9 million historic land-title documents, and conducts the popular wild horse and burro adoption program in the eastern United States. For more information about BLM programs in the East, call 703-440-1713 or visit the web site at www.es.blm.gov.